

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-71 are pending in the application. The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 31-71 and the indication of allowability with respect to claims 8-30.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 8, and claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, allowable claims 1-7 and 9-71 would be pending.

II. Claim Objections/Rejections:

Claims 8-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stefik et al. (US 6,895,392).

To facilitate prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 8, and claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the application is believed to be in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4574-4001.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4574-4001.

Respectfully submitted,
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